

No.31 Edward John 'Teddy' Peers

Teddy was born in Connah's Quay, Flintshire, 31 December 1886. Even as a teenager, the future Welsh international goalkeeper had won Welsh Amateur Cup and Cheshire League Championship Medals.

His career began at Oswestry St. Clare's moving to Chink, Connah's Quay Juniors, Connah's Quay Victoria and Connah's Quay before joining Wolverhampton Wanderers in April 1911, debuting against Bradford Park Avenue and going on to play in 11 games at the end of the 1910-11 season.

Wearing his trademark tatty flat cap, Teddy played 119 games in the next three seasons. His agile and consistent performances led to an impressive run of 71 consecutive first-team outings in the Second Division before the onset of World War One.

With all League Football shut down for the next five years, he guested for Port Vale, lining-up alongside Aston Villa and former Hednesford Town favourite, Tommy Lyons, helping them to win the Lancashire Section Championship in 1917-18. He also gained a Victory cap in 1919.

At the end of hostilities Teddy began where he had left off - at wolves. Another 68 appearances followed in the next two seasons. It's at this point, January 1922, when Teddy joined Hednesford Town staying, unfortunately, only six months before, I imagine, a money-deal the club couldn't refuse, took him to Port Vale. It's that move that puts him into my list at number 31.

58 matches in two seasons followed, along with four Welsh International caps to go with the eight he gained at Wolves. He was first capped against Ireland in 1913.

Realising the error of his Port Vale move, Teddy was back at the Keys in 1923, retiring three years later. After football he ran the New Inn and several other pubs in the Wolverhampton area. Teddy died in 1935.



Above: Wolves' 1914-15 squad. Teddy is flanked by future Hednesford players, George Garratley and Ted Collins, with former 'Lily White' 'Tosh' Griffiths standing in front of him. George Garratley would become our first player-manager.



Right: Teddy with Wales (v Ireland) in 1913.

From the Dave Shaw archive.

